

And even helped him choose the seal, Two hearts bound with a fetter. "The rose is red, the violet's blue, Sugar is sweet, and so are you."

And Jack's papa sent to mamma, When he was just eleven, The same rhyme for a valentine,

She being aged seven The envelope was tinted pink, And up within one corner, With bow and arrows, wings and all, Sat Cupid, little scorner.
"The rose is red, the violet's blue, Sugar is sweet, and so are you."

And Master Jack shot out last night As swift as any rocket, But not before I caught a glimpse Of something in his pocket. It was a letter-bless the boy!-

And I knew in a minute, The next day was Saint Valentine's, And so, just what was in it.
"The rose is red, the violet's blue, Sugar is sweet, and so are you."
-Eleanor A. Hunter, in Golden Days.



the path of gravel fore." to Miss Drygen's front door. Miss Het- twisted a little on one side. ty had seen him come in at the gate | "It doesn't seem possible that any

me, haven't you?"

grin, as he said:

reckon sent it?"

resent either offense.

entine in his presence.

thing better than a letter."

hand to Miss Hetty Dryden.

Joey's smile developed into an actual

"No'm, it ain't no letter. It's some-

He had been tugging away at his

sq "are, elaborately embossed envelope,

addressed in an apparently disguised

he held out the envelope; "who do you

"Some one with little to do," said

speech, but she felt rather annoyed as

her up to ridicule, and, kind and gentle

She got Joey a seed cake and he went

"Oh, I will presently," she said.

far from being acrid or severe in her ing it."

erties with her, or, perhaps, holding again.

spoke, and he now brought out a large, tine.

white and green house at the end of the long village street. Had she been | tion: given to such vulgar boasting she could have told her friends that she had had "plenty of chances." Indeed, it would have taken all of the fingers and even the thumb of her plump right hand for Hetty Dryden to have "counted up" the offers she had had right there in Hebron during the past 20 years. More than one elderly widower had gone disconsolately from her gate during even the last five years, chagrined and rebellious because Miss Hetty firmly, but kindly, declined to change her name.

The last rejected suitor had been Hiram Dyer, a widower of but eight months and the possessor of eight "awful" children who had undoubtedly been largely instrumental in worrying and wearying their poor mother into her grave.

"Mebbe this is from Hiram Dyer," Hetty Dryden said, as she snipped off the end of the envelope containing the valentine. "He said I'd hear from him again. If I felt sure it came from him, I'd send it back. I don't want him nor his valentine, either."

The valentine that Miss Hetty drew from the envelope was not made of paper lace and tinsel and embossed doves and flowers. It was instead a squarly-folded sheet of blue lined note paper, on which was written in an evidently disguised hand:

"This night at eight, Your valentine will wait If from your east window A light doth shine, He will enter in To claim his valentine. If all is dark He will go away, Leaving forever unsaid What he wants to say. O, be not cruel nor unkind, But let a light shine

For your valentine." The flush in Hetty Dryden's cheeks deepened as she let the bit of paper fall to her lap.

"Such nonsense! I'd probably never hear the end of it if I was goose enough | it was wonderful how gentle and pato really set a light in my east win-ITTLE Joey Joyce dow. But I'm not going to. Seems to his valentine, does he? He certainly came hurrying up me I've seen writing like that be-

and cinders lead- She held the sheet of paper out and ing from the gate looked at it quizzically, with her head

and she had opened the door before he man in his right mind would do anything so silly as to make up a jingle like "Well, my faithful little mail car- that and send it to a woman, even if

"I'VE SEEN THAT WRITING BEFORE."

write that?"

When a woman's curiosity is fully

aroused, nothing but the facts in the

case will satisfy her, and Miss Hetty

was annoyed to find herself growing

more and more curious regarding the

"It'd be serving him right if I set a

light in my window to lure him on,

rier," she said, "you have a letter for ne meant it. I just wonder who did

reefer with his mittened hands as he identity of the sender of the valen-

"Why don't you open it?" asked Joey. | fed it out where I've seen it."

brown hair lying in natural waves over case. Opening the glass door of the

her white temples. She had not yet book-case, Miss Hetty stepped upon a

"come to glasses," and the little excite- hassock and took down a small vol-

ment of receiving the valentine had ume of Byron's poems bound in green

filled her brown eyes with a sparkle, and gold. Opening the book, she read and brightness and brought a flush on the yellow-tinted fly-leaf:
to her cheeks that made Miss Hetty "To Miss Hetty Dryden, with many

a very pretty woman at that moment. good wishes for a merry Christmas and

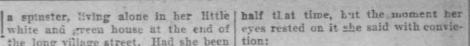
Indeed there were those in the village a happy New Year, from her friend

who declared that Hetty Dryden was and well wisher, Jared H. Lawson."

a "mighty good-lookin' woman" at any

The writing was eight years old, and

time It was her choice that she was Hetty had not looked at it for at least



"It is the same." Taking the book over to her work table and sitting down again, she laid the sheet of note paper down by the fly leaf on which the inscription was

written. "Yes, sir; Jared Lawson," she said, "you wrote them both. The capital letters are just alike in both of them, although you have tried to disguise your writing in your precious jingling poetry. I've found you out, you great goose, you!"

But there was a smile on her face and a kindly light in her eyes as she spoke the unflattering words.

Jared Lawson was proprietor of the only news or periodical stand in the town. He was a short, slightly portly man, rather bald, with a smooth, plump and kindly face. His blue eyes betokened honesty and sincerity, and he had almost womanly gentleness of spirit and manner. His 45 years had been full of deeds of kindness and the old ladies of Hebron were never tired of telling of how "awfully good" he had always been to his mother, who had been a eeble, fretful, exacting and complaining old body for years before her death.

It was held to be true that Jared had not married because he "couldn't leave mother," and because he very well knew that no woman could live happily with her.

The old lady had now been dead six months and Jared was living alone in the four rooms his mother and he had for years occupied above his store. It was a lonely and unsatisfactory life for a man of Jared's home-loving and strongly domestic instincts to lead.

"Poor Jared!" said Miss Hetty, as she read the jingling rhyme for the fourth time. "He must be dreadful lonesome since his mother died. He's a good man, Jared is. Any man who will be as good as he was to that fretful. trying old mother of his for 25 years is a mighty good man. I was there a lot during the old lady's last illness and tient he was. And so he wants me for would be more comfortable here than in those four little rooms he's beer batching in over his store. And Iwell, I'll own up that I feel kind o' lonely myself sometimes, and I-Ialways liked Jared."

She sat for a long time with her hands crossed in her lap and a sweetly serious, almost wistful expression or

At five minutes before eight a short, rather stout man was standing at Miss Hetty's gate looking toward the window in her east room. There was no light in the window.

"I'm an old fool to think a woman like her would set a light in her window for any man, as a hint for him to come in and propose to her," said the man to himself. "I wish I'd signed my name to my fool rhyme, or that I and the courage to go in. If there isn't light in that window by eight o'clock I'll go in and own up that I sent her that valentine. A man that hasn't the courage to ask a woman to marry him, don't deserve her and-glory hallelooyer!"

A bright ray of light came streaming across the snow from the window of the east room. Jared Lawson tugged at the gate, which did not open readily, and finally he climbed over the low fence and ran toward the door calling out like a happy child.

"Hetty! Hetty! O, Hetty!" The door opened before he reached it and Hetty stood there in the light in a cherry colored gown and snowy white apron, a smile on her face and her eyes

Jared's voice trembled and there was a suggestion of fear in it as he said: "O, Hetty, it is I-Jared Lawson." "I know it, Jared," said Hetty, laugh-

"And you put that light in the window for me, Hetty?" "For you, Jared."

"O, Hetty! God bless you, my-my

-dear!" He reached out his hand to clasp her own and to hold it to his lips. Then they went into the house together with the light of new-born love radiating from their hearts and faces .- Morris Wade, in Detroit Free Press.

VICTIM OF THE VALENTINE.



He sent his love a valentine, You can see it in his look.

The cook was to have had: A dream of bliss is ended, but

The Stab. Man hates the comic valentine-Because, in sooth, He always knows that it contains A grain of truth, -Brooklyn Life

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